Rick Perry Governor

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Donna L. Nelson Commissioner

Kenneth W. Anderson, Jr. Commissioner

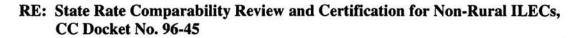


## Public Utility Commission of Texas

September 15, 2011

Marlene H. Dortch Office of the Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S. W., Room TW-A306 Washington, D.C. 20554

Karen Maicher Vice President, High Cost & Low Income Division Universal Service Administrative Company 2000 L Street, N.W., Suite 200 Washington, D.C. 20036



To the Filing Representatives:

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.316, the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Texas PUC) certifies that the rural residential rates charged by SBC Texas and Verizon<sup>2</sup> as of July 1, 2011 were below the Federal Communication Commission's nationwide urban benchmark of \$36.52.

Therefore, for purposes of § 254(b)(3) of the Federal Telecommunications Act, the Texas PUC certifies that the rural residential rates charged by SBC Texas and Verizon are lower than urban rates nationwide, and therefore they satisfy the "reasonable comparable" standard.

If there are any questions regarding this matter, please contact Liz Kayser in our Competitive Markets Division, (512) 936-7390.

Respectfully submitted.

Pamela Whittington Division Director

Competitive Markets Division

<sup>1</sup> See In re Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, Order on Remand, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and Memorandum Opinion and Order, Appendix A (rel. Oct. 27, 2003).

<sup>2</sup> SBC Texas and Verizon are the two non-rural incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) in Texas. Printed on recycled paper